



New Castle Crier

The official newsletter of New Castle City

Vol. 4, Iss. 9

New Castle, Delaware

October 2010

More improvements for City recycling will save tax dollars, help environment

Since 2004, the City of New Castle Code has had a section about "Recycling". Rather than referring to what City residents are now familiar with as the curbside program, this Code section covers recycling all items which may be considered yard waste.

Of course, the State mandated changes for yard waste a few years ago, disallowing it to be mixed in with regular household garbage. City residents got on board quickly and now are in the habit of separating their garbage

from yard waste, each of which is collected on different days by City crews, with everyone accustomed to yard waste Wednesdays.

There is one section of this part of the Code, however, which the City has been lax in enforcing. That is, a prohibition against yard waste, and grass clippings in particular, being left for collection in plastic bags.

continued on back page



Remember To Vote Tues., Nov. 2!

New Castle Events

Historic New Castle Kitchen to Garden Tour & Farmers' Market Saturday, October 9

Walking Tours: 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Farmers Market on the Green: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Sponsored by the
New Castle Library Friends to benefit the Library

Purchase tickets at the Library or
www.NewCastleLibraryFriends.org

Harvest Bazaar

Sat., October 16, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

New Castle Senior Center, 400 South Street

Featuring "Granny's Cupboard" with homemade baked goods;

"Made for You" with unique handcrafts, knitted and crocheted

items and seasonal crafts; "The Reader's Corner" with an

assortment of both fiction and non-fiction hardback and

paperback books; "The Treasure Chest" with a large variety of

new and gently used merchandise; eats, drinks and more!

Area CROP Hunger Walk

*Seven Local Churches joining together
to Walk for Local and World Hunger*

**Sun., Oct. 24 at 1 p.m. in New Castle
Registration is Noon to 1 p.m.**

The Walk begins at New Castle United
Methodist Church, 510 Delaware Street

There are two routes to choose from:
3 miles or 1-1/2 miles through
Battery Park and Old New Castle

**25% of the proceeds go to the Food Bank
of Delaware and Emmanuel Dining Room**

**75% is donated to 80 countries around
the world (including the United States)
to combat hunger and homelessness
and to aid in relief in natural disasters**

**If you cannot walk, please consider
donating to sponsor a walker**

For more information, call Joan Skilton 658-9991

New Castle - The First Capital City!

Yard Waste Changes

continued from front page

As the City continues its quest to save tax dollars and employ environmentally-friendly practices, we need to have our residents discontinue placing yard waste materials in plastic bags.

A simple change can address the issue. Yard waste materials may be left unbagged and loose inside trash cans. It can also be placed in paper yard waste bags, available for purchase in local stores and online.

The City will also soon begin our leaf collection program. This is a different operation, as leaves are not collected in the traditional trash trucks. Rather, large vacuums are fitted on City trucks with leaf boxes. Residents are asked to rake leaves up to the curb so they are easily reached by City crews and vacuum equipment.

Currently, the City disposes of leaves by spreading them on vacant property and making them into mulch for use by City crews in parks, etc. Branches are

normally run through a chipper right where they are left for collection curbside. Those wood chips are then stored on vacant property, also available for future use by the City.

All other yard waste materials, including grass clippings, are transported by trash trucks to a yard waste recycling area operated by the Delaware Solid Waste Authority (DSWA). The City pays tipping fees for disposal according to the weight and tonnage of the material.

Recently, the City has found an alternative site which will accept our yard waste at a considerable savings (about half) over the tipping fees we are currently paying DSWA (remember, those fees were recently significantly increased by DSWA). The best value rate with our new site, however, will require that no plastic bags be included in our truckloads.

We are asking that all our New Castle residents discontinue placing yard waste in plastic bags immediately.

Eliminating plastic bags for yard waste has substantial environmental benefits and will also yield reduced costs for our City operations, which translates into tax dollar savings.

The next
regular
City Council
meeting is 7 p.m.,
Tues., Oct. 12 at

Water System Improvements

Progress on the School Lane Treatment Facility is moving forward. Layne Christensen, the contractor working on the rehabilitation, performed as much work as possible while the facility remained in service. As of September 20, however, they took it out of service to complete the remaining work. The shutdown is expected to last for approximately 120 days, until the remaining work is completed.

During this time, the MSC has made arrangements with Artesian Water Company to purchase water for our customers. The MSC has an interconnection with Artesian at our School Lane Facility which is being utilized without interfering with the rehabilitation.

Since Artesian's water source is from the same aquifer as the MSC's and they perform the same treatment process to their water as the MSC, this should be a transparent change for our customers.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact the MSC at 323-2330 or 323-2333.

**City Offices Closed Election Day, Tuesday, November 2
Tuesday Trash pickup will occur on Wednesday**

Code Enforcement Corner

Complaint forms are available at the City Offices or on the City Web site at www.NewCastleCity.org. Complaints are handled on a confidential basis. If feedback and/or updates are requested, however, a name, address and phone number need to be provided with the complaint.

Highlights and general reminders

- All properties in the City shall have approved address numbers placed in a position to be plainly legible and visible from the street or road fronting the property. These numbers shall contrast with their background. Address numbers shall be Arabic numerals or alphabet letters. Numbers shall be a minimum of 4 inches high with a minimum stroke width of one-half inch.
- Note that Chapter 210 of the City Code prohibits work on street trees by anyone other than Tree Commission.